

FARM HOUSE BYRNS

A. K. Boggs' Country Residence Consumed by Flames

A. K. Boggs residence a mile south of town was burned to the ground Wednesday morning between 7 and 8 o'clock.

The fire caught from a defective flue and the upstairs rooms were burning briskly before the fire was discovered. The wind was blowing and the flames quickly spread and the entire house was burned. Much of the furniture downstairs was saved but everything in the bedroom upstairs was consumed—among which was the pocket book of Mrs. Boggs' grandmother, Mrs. Hance. In the pocketbook was a sum of money and diamonds. The house was insured for \$1300 but the furniture was not insured.

It was feared for awhile that the barn would burn and the hay was removed. None of the other buildings burned.

MENDON

Well this is the kind of weather that we all like to see for it will make the spring flowers come forth, especially the violets that the little folks all like to pluck so well.

Oat sowing has been the order of the day the past week.

Frank Hunnel is some better at this writing. He has been very ill for the past week.

Dr. Wright was called to see Aunt Louisa Costley Sunday evening.

Smith Tood has arrived with his family and gone to housekeeping in the little house he put up on Mr. Grissom's place. We all welcome him in our neighborhood and hope he may do well.

Frank Hunnel's two sisters, Mrs. Ella Minkler and Mrs. Lizzie Goatly of Carthage, are spending this week with him.

Mr. Lamp and wife spent Saturday night and Sunday with her folks near Purdy.

Robt. Jenkins and wife and son called on Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hunnel Sunday evening.

Mrs. Maggie Weldy and Mrs. Minnie Miller were shopping in Freistatt Friday evening.

Will Hunnel spent Saturday night with his brother Frank and went Sunday to see his brother Marion, near Clarkson, returning to his home at Joplin Monday morning.

Mrs. Annie Means is on the sick list, gripping like all the rest. It seems as though most everyone has it.

Rezin Zinn spent Sunday at Frank Hunnel's.

Greens are getting large enough now to begin picking and some are taking advantage of the opportunity.

Mrs. Wright returned to her home in Freistatt last week after a pleasant visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Brice Hudson in Peirce City.

D. S. Shaw and wife returned Tuesday evening from Tulsa and Sapulpa where they have been visiting their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Grissom and their uncles and aunts. They report a fine visit and found all enjoying reasonable good health.

Dr. Wright was called to see Mr. Trollet. He reports that the old gentleman has dropsy and that his days are numbered few.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Zinn spent Tuesday with Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hunnel. Mr. Zinn is able to be up but don't feel anything extra.

Mr. Nobody.

S. A. Mott is very ill and confined to his bed.

Mrs. Maggie Campbell had the misfortune to lose the end of her thumb Tuesday. She caught it in a folding bed and cut it off so that half the first joint had to be amputated.

Blue Bell News

Sowing oats is the order of the day.

Mr. and Mrs. John Sherman visited in Monett today.

Lawrence Haggard was seen going east Sunday.

Landon Mulkey and Miss Minnie Hains attended church at Ebenezer Sunday night.

Monroe Lovings made a flying trip to Verona Monday.

A. D. Browning bought a new cultivator the 19th.

Porter Browning broke the shafts out of his buggy Sunday night.

UNCLE FULLER.

Ebenezer.

We are having fine weather at present.

Oat sowing seems to be the order of the day.

Church and Sunday School at Ebenezer was well attended Sunday. Bro. Carlin filled his regular appointment at that place Saturday and Sunday preaching four able and effective sermons.

The contest at Liberty Wednesday night given by the Junior members of the L. T. L.'s of Monett was well rendered. Each contestant did his part well while the extra numbers need no comment. Their excellency makes them stand on their own merits.

Albert Burkhart has moved onto the place he lately purchased from Dummit Wainwright.

Wm. Ethridge is some better again. Mr. Etheridge claims now that a man can't die of rheumatism. He says they couldn't kick the bucket if they wanted to.

Chas. Wilkes is able to be around again.

Some of the people of this vicinity were startled Sunday on seeing an object pass by which they judged to be an air-ship. The object was first seen in the vicinity of Talpa and traveled south easterly taking a zig-zag path. The object did not remain in the air all the time but seemed to touch the ground at the most conspicuous points. When last seen was about five or six miles east of Monett. Any one finding a solution to this mystery will please notify Billy Brine at once.

Fred Wolf is sporting a new buggy this week.

Charley Wolf spent Saturday with Edgar Hillhouse and family.

Messrs. Troy Beckett, Oliver Anderson Earl Weygandt and Edward Gavdour and Misses Mabel Weygandt, Orba Howard, Maud Rundles and Lena Baucher attended church at Mt. Olivet Sunday night.

Success to "THE TIMES".

BILLY BRINE.

Railroad Conference

Arrangements for establishing a passenger fare of 2½ cents a mile and the issuance of a 2 cent a-mile book, the latter plan in accordance with the idea of Governor Hadley, were discussed yesterday by executive and traffic officials of Missouri railroads having headquarters in St. Louis. In all probability a conference will be held today in St. Louis, when the advisability of delegating a committee to confer with State officials will be considered.

The meeting was called by President Davidson, of the Frisco, and it was held in his office in the Frisco building. Vice President Miller of the Wabash and Vice President Clark, of the Missouri Pacific, were present, as were officers of other lines.

While one of the most important railroads operating in Missouri entered strenuous objections yesterday to a compromise, and declared itself positively in favor of a rate of 3 cents a mile, a majority of the carriers signified their desire for an amicable adjustment.—St. Louis Republic.

Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Pinnell went to Garfield, Ark., Wednesday to look at some farm land.

VICTOR'S JUDGMENT

By R. H. BURKE.

With Eleanor Grayling it was a case of "love me, love my dog," and although Herbert Holloway almost idolized the girl, he could not force an affectionate regard for the heavy-jowled bulldog Victor, with whom he shares Eleanor's affections.

Not that Holloway did not like dogs. There were many fine fellows who found in him a friend, but there was something repellent to Holloway in the vicious-looking Victor. Even his name was suggestive of the dog pit, and Victor looked a veritable champion among canine gladiators. Only his mistress knew how mild and lovable was his disposition. To the stranger, it was much as though Miss Grayling were attended by some bully of the underworld.

It was a marvel that Holloway had ever succeeded in getting upon better than a friendly footing with Eleanor when his dislike for the dog was so apparent and unconcealed, but Holloway was distinctly likeable, and he had been accepted as something more than a friend, though Eleanor would not listen to his avowals of love.

"It's just this way, Bert," she had explained when he first asked her to be his wife. "I like you; I like you very much indeed, but I am superstitious. They say that dogs know men better than other men do. Vic



"Suppose We Try—er."

does not like you any more than you like him, and I'm—I'm afraid."

"But I can bring recommendations from dozens of dogs," declared Holloway. "Dick Wyant's boar will land me to the skies, and Ben Trevor's mastiff will echo, 'Me, too,' to every word of it."

"It's nothing to joke about," declared Eleanor softly. "I'd like to say 'yes,' Bert, but—there must be some reason why Vic hates you."

"No doubt it's because I do not consider him a fit companion for you," retorted Holloway. "If you were a horsey girl—the sort who wears men's coats and shoes, and uses slang and cigarettes, Vic would be all right, but you are such a dainty, feminine little woman that Vic strikes a jarring note. He knows that I want to make him lose his job and naturally he doesn't like me."

Holloway would have argued further, but Eleanor turned the conversation and would hear no more against Vic. Holloway, seeing that there was no room for argument, moodily accepted for the moment the dog's dictum, though it irritated him that even in their walks and drives Vic formed a bad third and "played gooseberry" in doggy dignity.

They were walking in the park when the discussion was reopened. Vic had been industriously chasing squirrels, having slipped his leader, and a park policeman had threatened to shoot him. Eleanor managed to get the dog back on leash and, exhausted by her exertions, had sat down to recover her breath. Holloway shared the bench and Vic sat on his haunches before them solemnly regarding the pair through blood-shot eyes.

"To think that that horrid man wanted to shoot poor Vic!" panted Eleanor. "The poor fellow is not to blame for following a natural instinct."

"I can sympathize with the policeman," said Holloway, betrayed into a temper. "No dog should be permit-

ted to run at large and chase squirrels and children."

"He didn't chase children," denied Eleanor indignantly.

"How about the little boy in the sailor suit?" demanded Holloway triumphantly.

"If the little silly wanted to be scared by a perfectly harmless dog, I don't see what that matters to us," declared Eleanor with cold decision.

"All the same I had to hold the 'harmless' dog until the nurse could get the child out of sight," remarked Holloway. "I suppose that's another exhibition of the infallibility of dogs to judge human nature. Perhaps the little boy was a bank burglar or a highwayman in disguise."

"I think that Vic and I will go on," Eleanor said coldly. "I shall not trouble you. I don't want ever to see you again. You are horrid."

"I'm sorry," pleaded Holloway. "I didn't mean to be so nasty, Nell, but don't you realize how Vic has tried my temper this morning with his antics?"

"I can see that his opinion was entirely justified," she declared icily. "I will bid you good morning."

She started to rise, but with a low growl and bared teeth Vic advanced toward her and she sank back on the seat. Holloway made a move to grasp the dog's leader, but another growl and a more generous display of polished fangs warned him not to interfere. Eleanor looked at him in dismay.

"Another case of justifiable opinion, Nell," suggested Holloway with a grin. Eleanor flushed but did not reply. Once or twice she made an attempt to rise, but each time the dog made it evident that to do so would be dangerous. The minutes sped on toward lunch time, and the situation became embarrassing. They were in a part of the park not much frequented and no one passed by who could aid. At last Holloway had an inspiration.

"You know how savage Vic gets when anyone pretends to strike you," he reminded. "Suppose you pretend to make up. Perhaps that's it and he will let us go on then."

"But how?" she asked. "We cannot very well explain to him that it is all right."

"Perhaps if you let me hold your hand for a moment," suggested Holloway, "and—er—kiss you Vic would understand."

"We might try the hand part," she agreed, offering a daintily gloved hand which Holloway promptly encompassed with his own.

"Vic looks more amiable already," declared Holloway. "Suppose that we try—er—the second part of the treatment?"

For a moment Eleanor hesitated, then shyly a very pink cheek was offered and Holloway pressed his lips against it. Together they turned to look at Victor. The heavy lips were still parted over the gleaming teeth, but they seemed to possess a more amiable curve and the stumpy tail pounded the concrete of the walk vigorously.

"I guess Vic is a good judge after all," declared Holloway, leaning over to pat his head. "He knew that if we separated it might be for good and—will you accept Vic's judgment, Nell?"

"I—I—perhaps Vic is right," agreed Eleanor. "Maybe you will feel more kindly toward Vic, now."

"I should say so," agreed Holloway. "Do you know, I think that Vic was jealous, but like the gentleman he is, he tried to square the mischief he had done when he saw that he had gone too far. Here boy!"

Vic sprang to Holloway's knee at the invitation and made frantic endeavors to lick the hand that rested on his head, but Holloway paid no attention, for his eyes were only for Eleanor. In her eyes he read her entire approval of Victor's judgment.

GROUND FOR HOPE.

The prisoner was downcast. "Cheer up," said his lawyer. "I've got a jury of 12 men too stupid to find out that you're guilty."

Naturally the client took a more hopeful view.

ETERNAL FITNESS.

"What do you think of Mr. and Mrs. Scrapy's being married by a justice of the peace?"

"I think a man of war would have been more fitting."

NIGHT WATCHES.

Doctor—Now, take this medicine and you will sleep like a baby.

Patient—Why, doctor, if you mean our baby, I guess I'll not take it.

Mr. Roosevelt Starts On Trip To African Wilds.

New York, March 23.—Theodore Roosevelt sailed at 11:06 today from his native land on the first stage of his journey to the wilds of Eastern Africa in search of his big game. From his country home at Oyster Bay to the steamship dock in Hoboken the president's route resembled a triumphal march, the greetings of crowds which had gathered to wish him good luck being expressed all along the way in enthusiastic cheers. A feature of the trip was that Roosevelt rode for the first time in the tunnel under the Hudson from New York to Jersey City.

Merchants of Oklahoma Threaten To Retaliate.

Oklahoma City, March 23.—The Kansas City jobbers have been given five days to abolish the boycott against the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad company, according to a resolution adopted here today in a joint session of the executive committee of the State Federation of Commercial clubs and the State Retailers' association. If, at the expiration of five days the boycott is not abolished the special committee named at the meeting is authorized to officially declare a state-wide boycott against the Kansas City jobbers.

The Distinction

School Teacher—Johnny, what is a patriot?

Johnny—A man that tries to benefit his country.

School Teacher—And what is a politician?

Johnny—A man that tries to have his country benefit him.

The H. S. B. C. held an interesting meeting at the home of Mr. John Farrow on Monday, March 22nd, led by Mr. Roy Parker. Those present were Misses Marie Weaver, Estella Brown, Hattie Stevens, Cecil Goodrum, Grace Whitlatch, Sarah Watson, Edna Green, Eunice Horine, Mabel Moses, Lillian Allen, Anna Carter, Sarah Parker, Meta Westerman, Isabelle Breese, Ruth McBride, Mary Farrow, Messrs. Edgar Price, Ed Johnson, Wilson Gates, Roy Parker and John Farrow.

The breathing of gasoline fumes from the spout of a three gallon gasoline can left on the kitchen floor resulted in the death of the 17-month-old child of Mr. and Mrs. A. Holdredge at Springfield Tuesday. Mrs. Holdredge heard the coughing and ran to the kitchen. The child was lying outstretched on the floor, beside the overturned can gasping for breath, the fumes of the vapor having overcome him. A physician was called, but the child died. The doctors believe the struggles of the child to regain his breath resulted in bursting of a small blood vessel causing a hemorrhage which could not be checked.

Ellis Beckham is on the sick list.

Jas. Steele and family moved to Tulsa, Okla., the first of the week.

Capt. Harvey of Oklahoma, is visiting his sister, Mrs. A. J. Phillips.

C. M. Todd has returned from a business trip to St. Louis.

Mrs. W. J. Buley and children are visiting B. L. Buley and family at Joplin.

Solon Wright and family are moving into C. I. Williams new concrete cottage on North Fifth street.

The annual meeting of the Missouri Press association will meet at Fulton on May 12, 13 and 14.

John Walton has purchased Jas. Steel's residence property in Hall's addition and will move in this week.

Masters Eugene and Jamie Hornbottle, of Springfield, are visiting their aunt, Mrs. F. Y. Charles.

Mrs. E. G. Brayman, Mrs. Joe Hilliard, Ruth and Hazel Brayman visited in Joplin Tuesday.

Some miscreant threw two bricks through J. W. Armstrong's store window Tuesday night.

Humor of American Farmers

Apparently Roosevelt's commission to inquire into the joys and sorrows of country life is traveling a rough road. Some of the farmers and agricultural papers do not appear to appreciate that list of questions hung out for them to answer. They resent the idea as a suggestion that they have to be looked after, like "the blind, the lame and the lazy."

To question twelve, asking "if the farmers and their wives get together with their neighbors for entertainment and social intercourse as much as they might do," one old farmer facetiously remarked:

"We get together too often; we are better apart, we lie about each other too much."

Another query elicited the reply: "Why don't you make inquiries in your own home? What do you and your wife do? How about your own family? Don't you think you could do something better than stand around and ask questions that seem a trifle impertinent?"

The final conclusion of the old farmer was that there was not much that could be added for the betterment of life on the farm, which, according to him, was an endless round of joy when strangers did not "butt in." He states that "all we need is more than we have got. We are born healthy, live frugally, marry the best we can, divorce seldom, obey the law (we don't need much law in the country) vote as we've a mind to—most of the time are long on common sense, and don't ask impertinent questions of strangers."—"Affairs at Washington," April National Magazine.

Taft Becomes Member of Mo. "Bill Club."

Washington, March 24.—President Taft today received from Senator "Bill" Warner of Missouri a beautifully engrossed certificate of membership in "Bill Club No. 1 of the World," a chartered body with headquarters at Excelsior Springs, Mo. The certificate was signed by "Bill" Fowler, president, and "Bill" Hyser, secretary. "Bill" Bryan, it was announced, also was to be a member of the unique organization.

Mother's Day

Remember it is on the second Sunday in May that we are to do honor to our mothers by wearing white flowers, emblematic of the purest love mortal can bestow. In that earliest of months, one day is to be dedicated to sweet, loving, tender, sacred memories of her whose love is an expression of absolute unselfishness. This new anniversary of the twentieth century will appeal to the great heart of the American people, for, in the words of Leigh Mitchell Hodges, "we have left for the last—which shall yet be first—the highest of all days—Mother's Day."—April National Magazine.

Convict System Doomed

Jefferson City, Mo., March 24.—The hiring out of convicts to contractors was condemned in the Senate today by Senators McDavid, Eads and Lane, when the latter's bill to abolish the system and use the convicts in the manufacturing the clothing and other supplies for the state educational and eleemosynary institutions was called up for engrossment.

That the Senate will pass a measure gradually doing away with the existing system and substituting a system of state employment which will take the convicts out of competition with free labor seems certain from the discussion on the bill, which comes up again tomorrow.

The St. Louis and San Francisco railway was granted a franchise in county court today to lay a line of track on Spencer street and across Clifton avenue, west of the Frisco new site.—Springfield Leader.

The Baptist Aid Society met with Mrs. L. B. Durnil Wednesday.